

Monday - March 11

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with Thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4: 6-7

The loss of a child shatters your existence and understanding of mortality. In the quiet corridors of grief, intense sorrow looms and questions linger. But if your heart and mind allow, the intersection between despair and divine grace will start to unfold. Each new day brings dependence on receiving the grace of God. Morning walks with our dogs are full of prayer. Prayers that lead to a daily discovery of that needed divine grace. I let my tears be lifted higher to a God that reminds me "I am here, even in the deepest valleys of your sorrow."

I begin to perceive subtle signs of my daughter, Willie's heavenly existence. Through a delicate and crazy dance of faith and grief, the heavens touch the earth and God breaks through with the assurance that love endures beyond the physical. The grieving process becomes a sacred ground where the divine and the human converge. I am learning to find solace not in the absence of pain, but in the presence of our Lord.

Tara Schnetzler

Prayer: Dear Lord, please continue to bring your peace into our hearts and minds. Please allow our faith to grow deeper and seek to believe without understanding. Amen.